

POND LIFE

Rena K. Kirkpatrick

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LOOK
AT
SCIENCE

POND LIFE

POND LIFE

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IMC
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Elementary School



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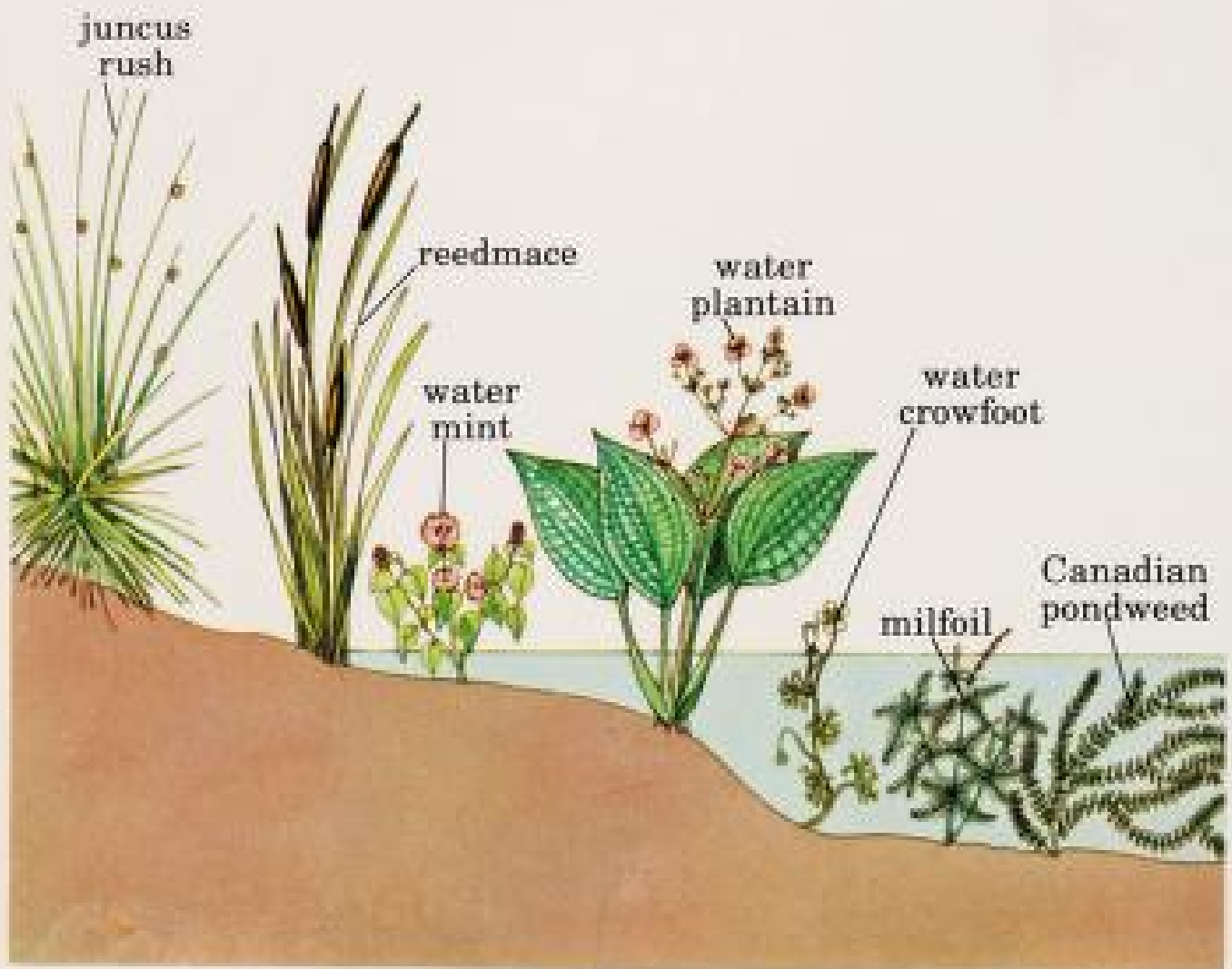


What is life like in a pond?

The plants and animals of a pond live well together. They are a community.

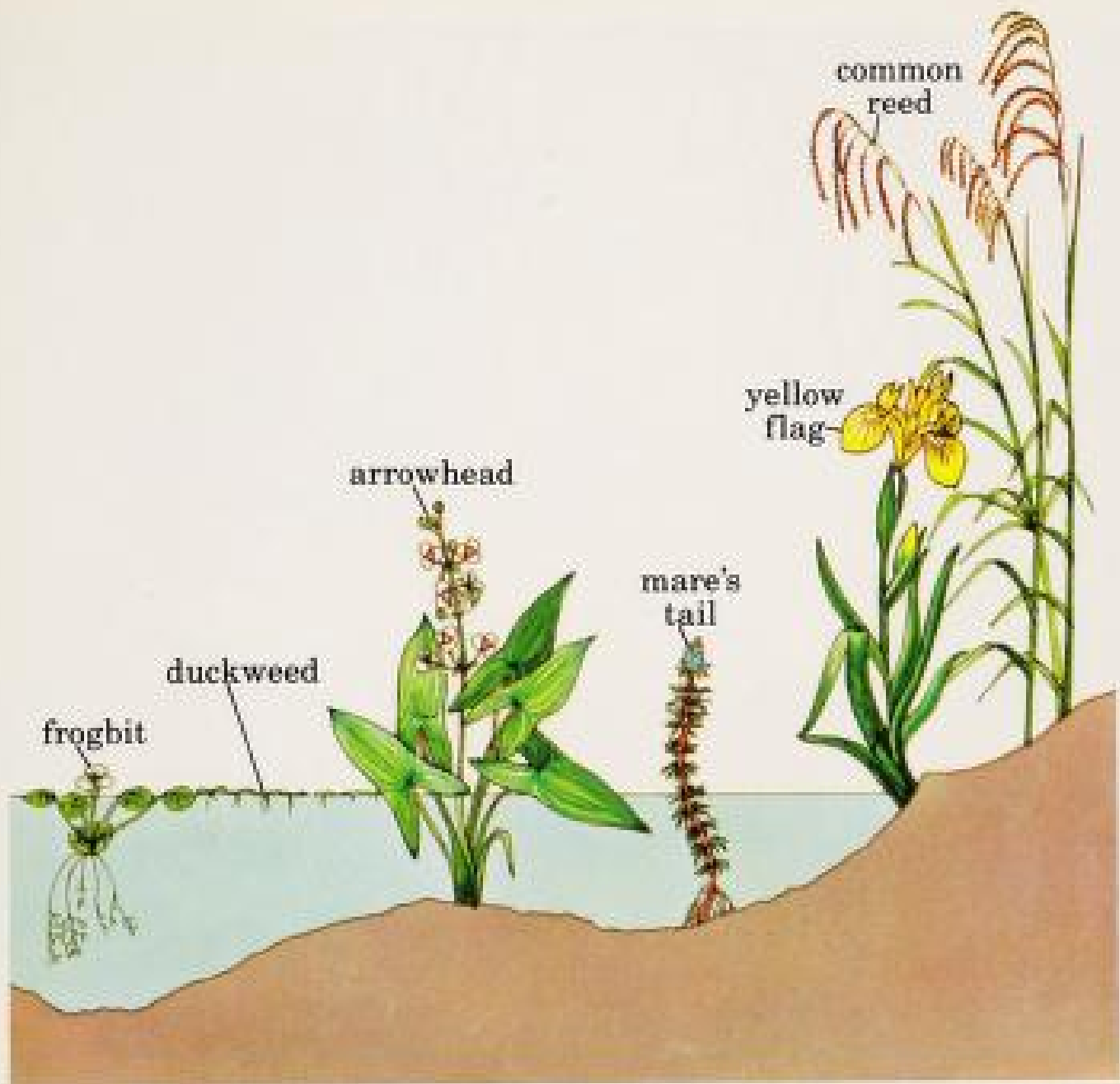


Where do the plants and animals live?
Some of the plants and animals live
above the water. Others live on and
in the water.

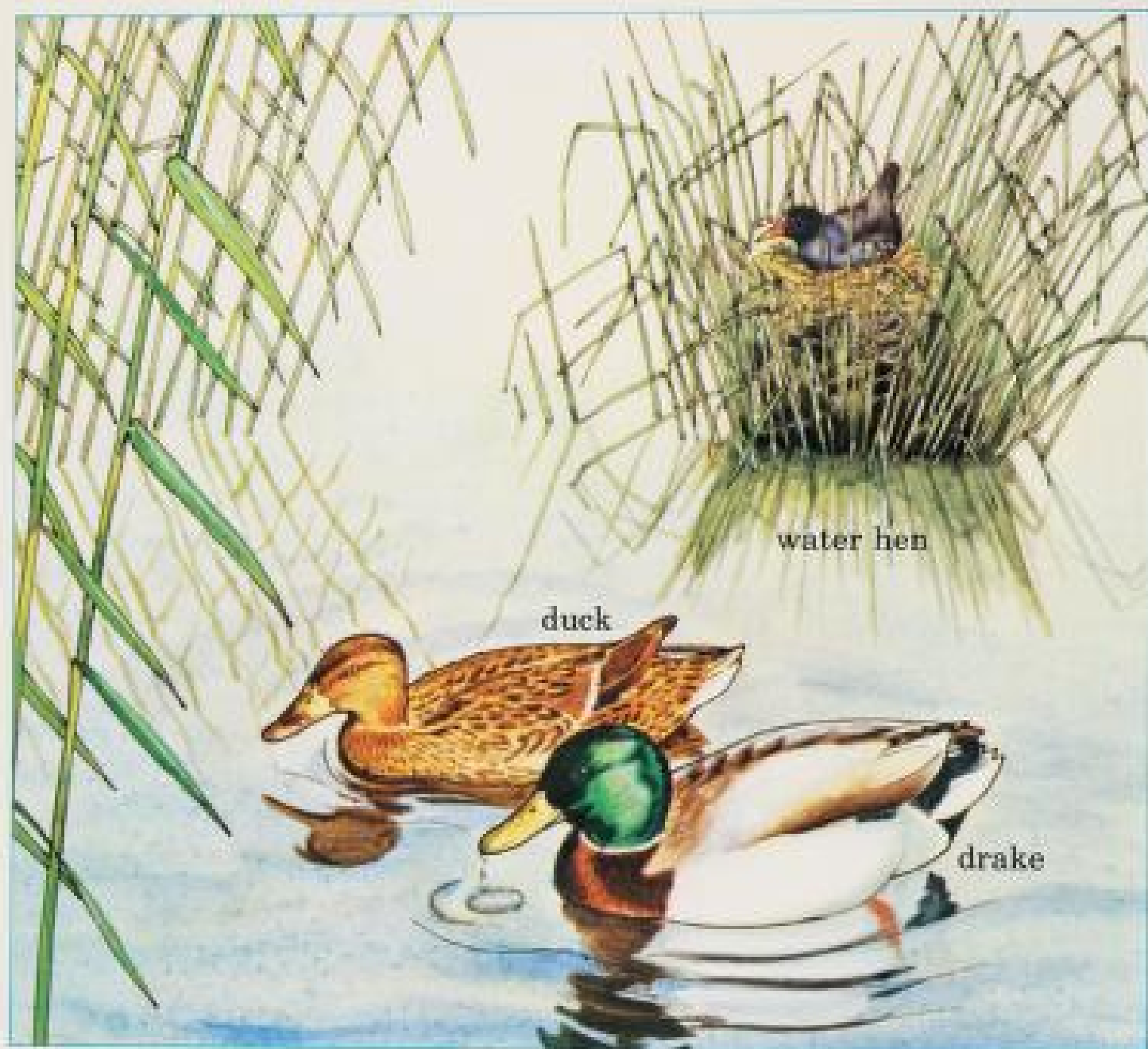


How do pond plants grow?

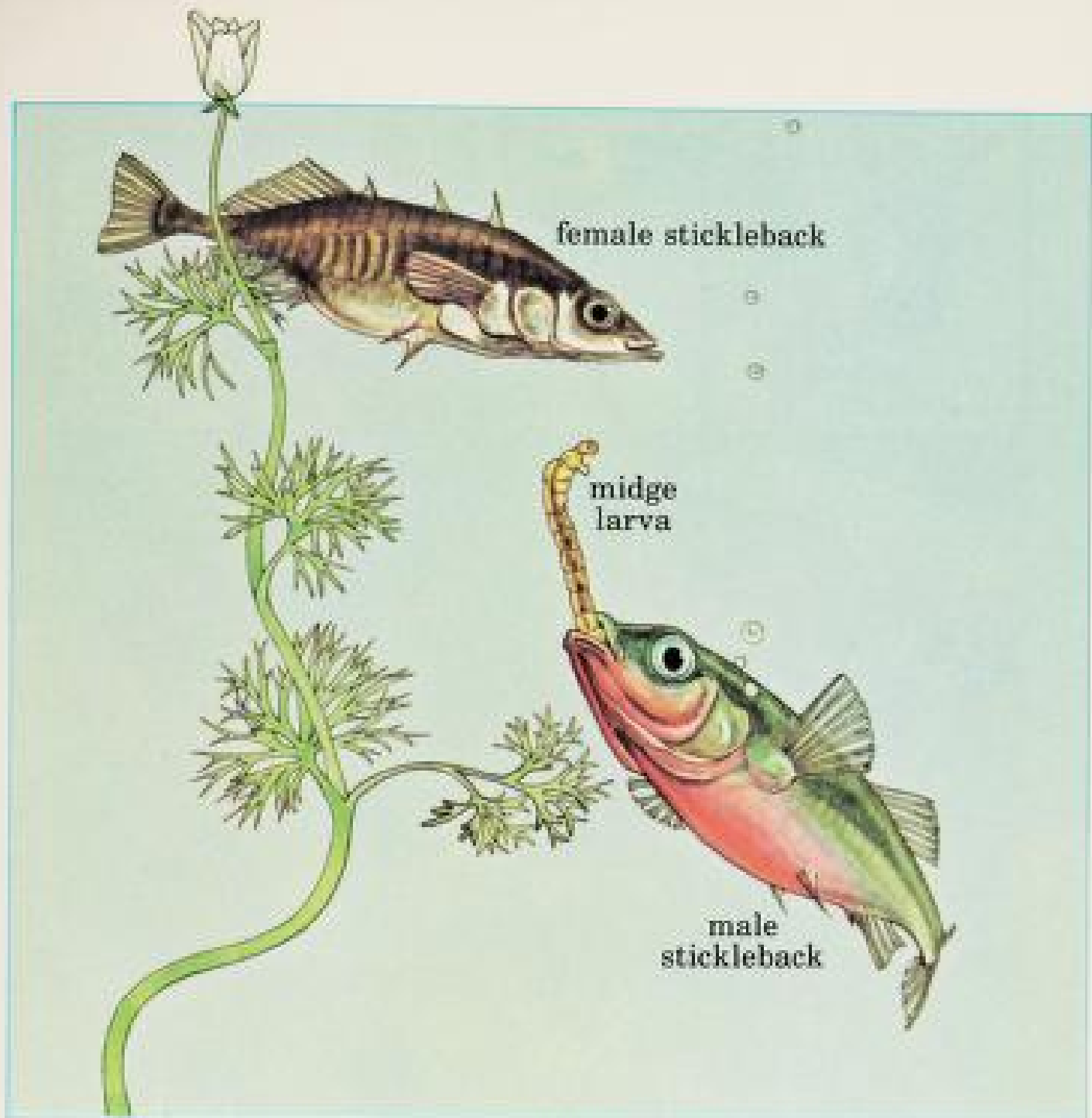
Plants that grow near ponds need a lot of water. Some plants have only their roots in the water.



Other plants have roots that float.
Still other plants grow completely
underwater.



Where do pond birds build nests?
Some of the birds build their nests
on shore. Others build nests in the
middle of the pond.



What are pond fish like?

Many different kinds of fish live in ponds. Fish eat plants and insects from the water.



What are some other pond animals?

Frogs, toads, and newts live in water and on land. Frogs and toads lay eggs in water. Newts lay eggs in grass. The young frogs, toads, and newts live in the water after they hatch.



What hatches from frog eggs?

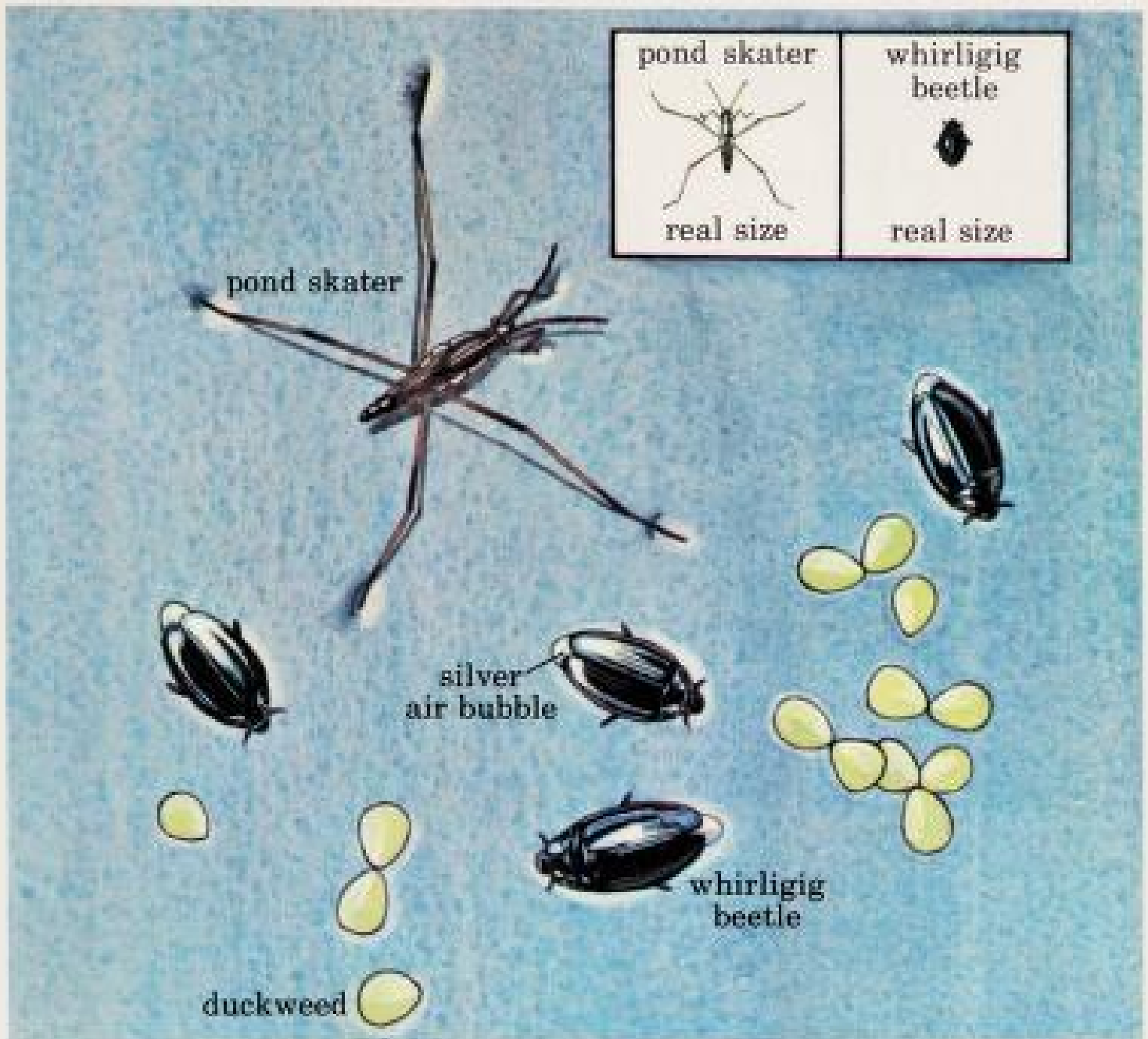
Tadpoles hatch from frog eggs.

Tadpoles have tails. They do not have legs. They eat water plants.



How do tadpoles grow into frogs?

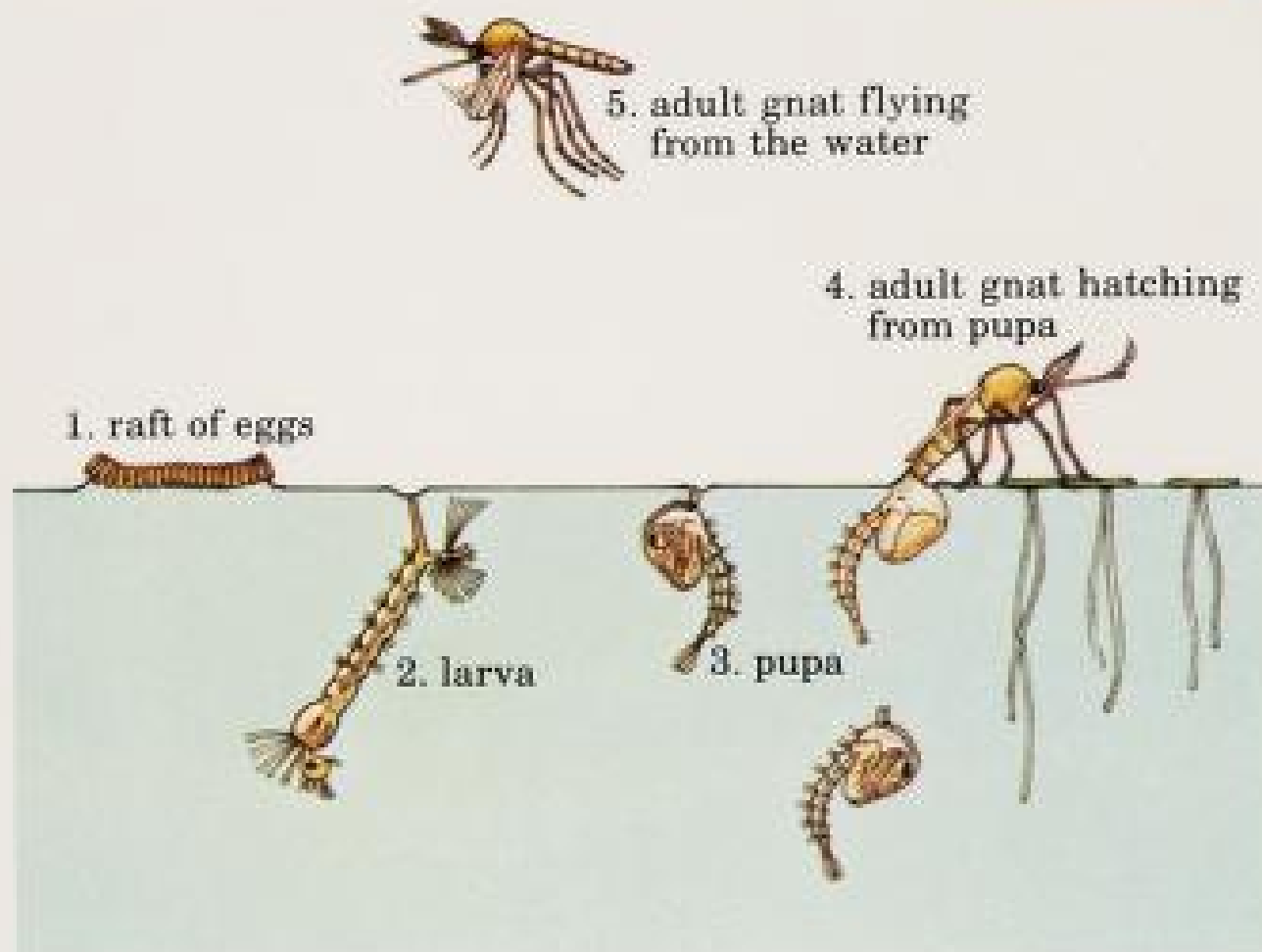
Tadpoles grow legs as they get older.
They need to eat meat. In the pond,
they eat insects.



What are surface insects like?

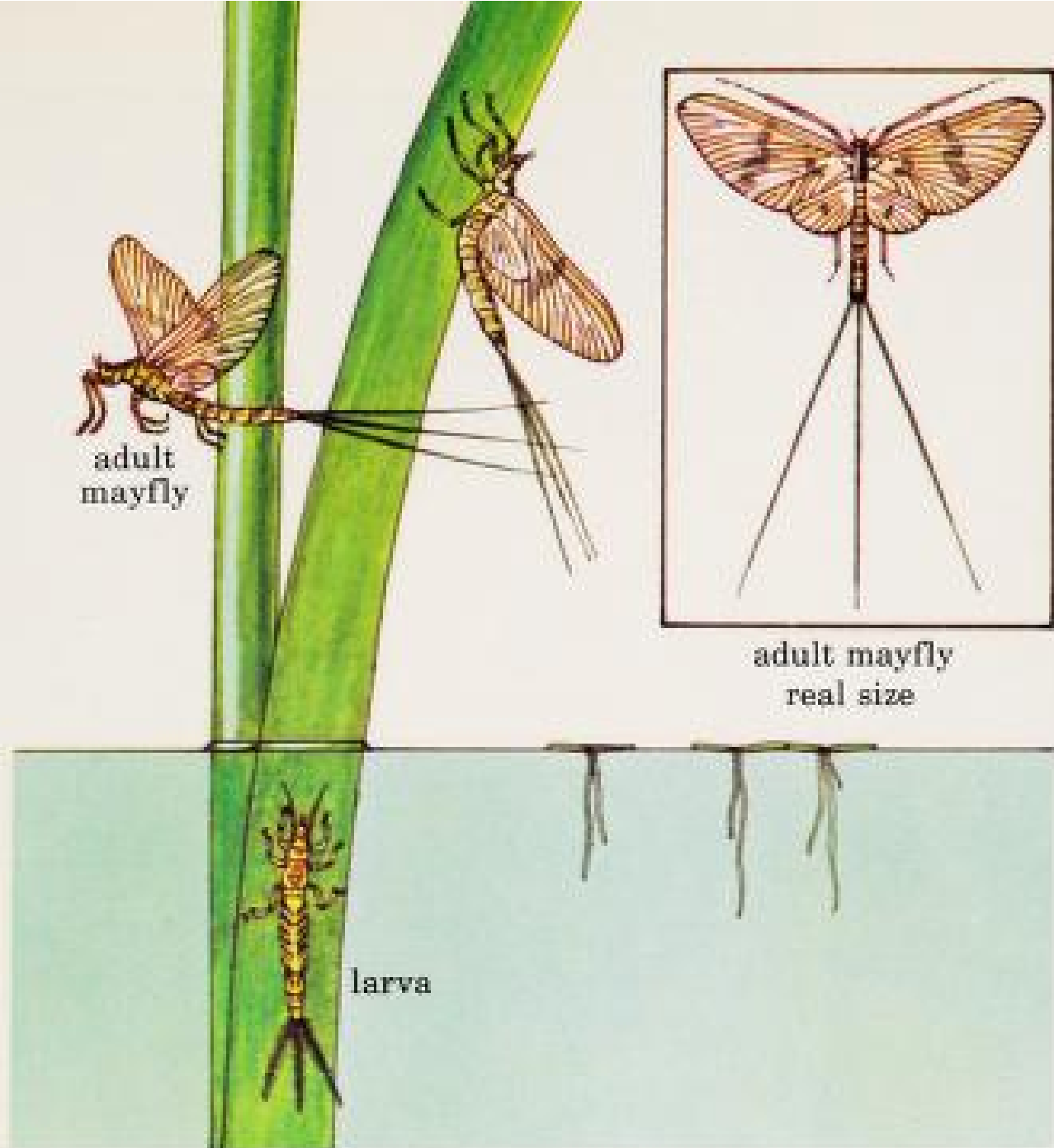
Some pond insects never go under the water. They stay on the surface. Fish, frogs, and birds eat insects as food.

How a gnat grows



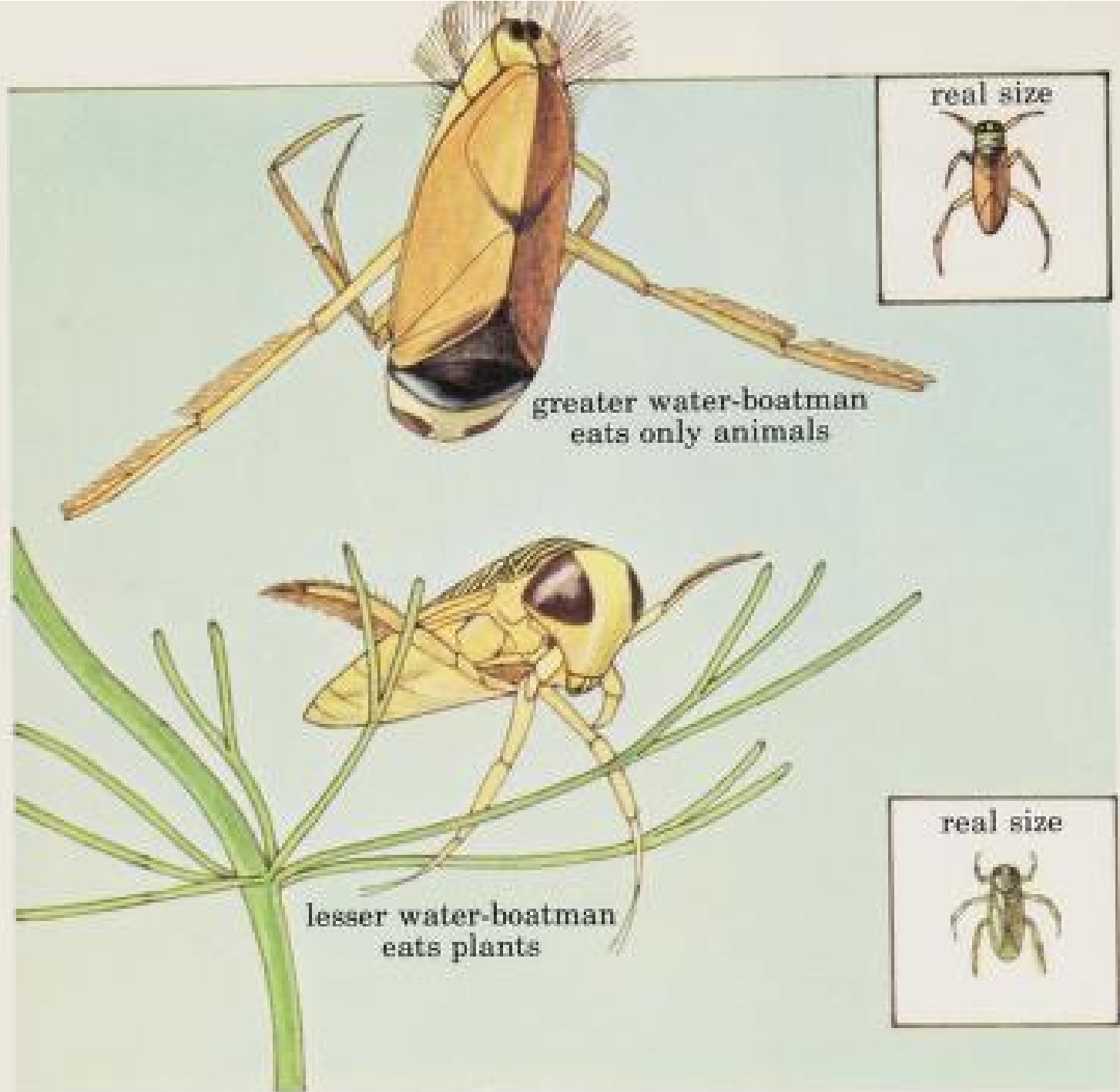
How do gnats grow in the pond?

Gnats spend most of their lives in the water. Fish eat the eggs, larvae, and pupae of gnats. Frogs eat the adult gnats.



How do mayflies grow in the pond?

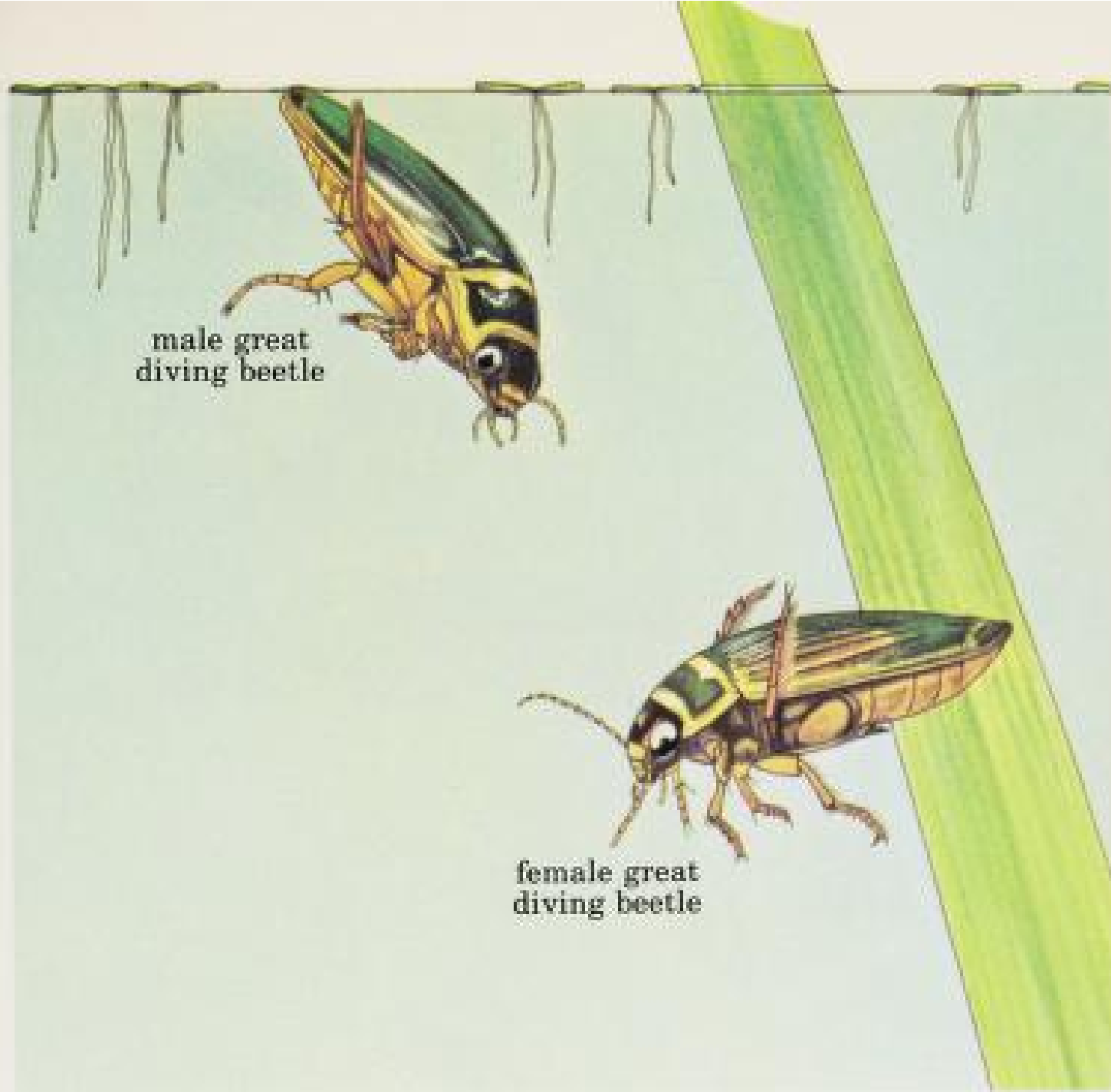
The larva of the mayfly lives in the water for one or two years. The adult has no mouth, so it cannot eat. Adult mayflies live for only a few hours.



What other insects live in a pond?

Water-boatmen swim underwater.

They come to the surface for air. One set of legs acts like oars. Hairs on the legs push against the water and help the boatmen swim.



male great
diving beetle

female great
diving beetle

Diving beetles float with their heads in the water. They trap air under their wing cases. When they are underwater, they can breathe the trapped air for several minutes.



The larva of the great diving beetle attacks and eats many other small pond animals. It comes to the surface for air. It traps air with its tail hairs, which it can breathe for several minutes.



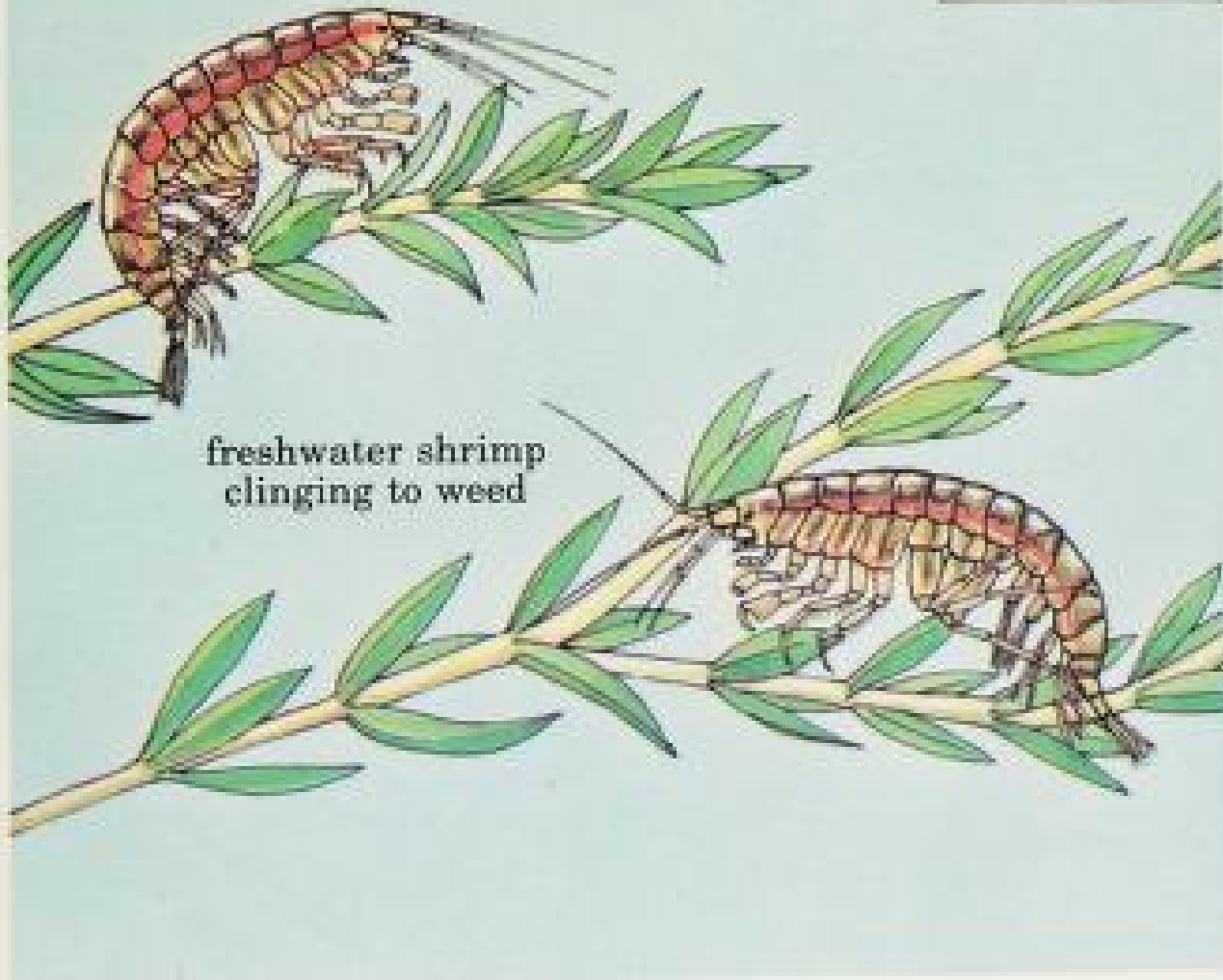
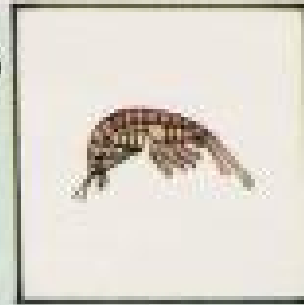
What can be found on a pond plant?
Just one pond plant has many small
animals on it. Some fall off easily.
Others hold on tightly.



What are scavengers?

Flatworms and water lice crawl on plants at the bottom of the pond. They eat bits of food left by other animals. They are called scavengers.

freshwater shrimp
real size



freshwater shrimp
clinging to weed

What other animals live in a pond?
Freshwater shrimp live in ponds.
They have hard shells and many
pairs of legs.



adult caddis fly



shell of
leaf pieces



caddis larva case
real size



shell case



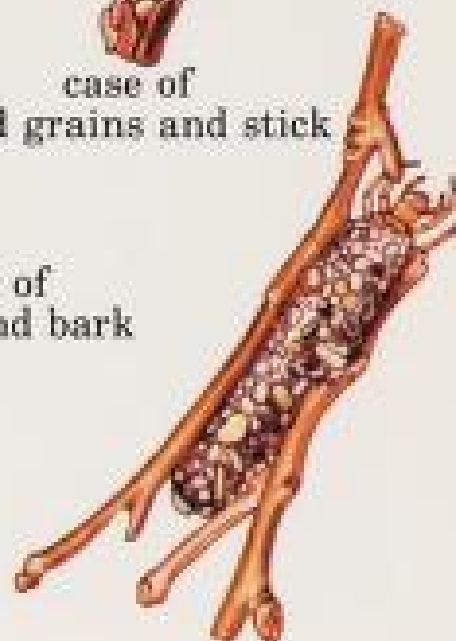
case of
leaf fragments



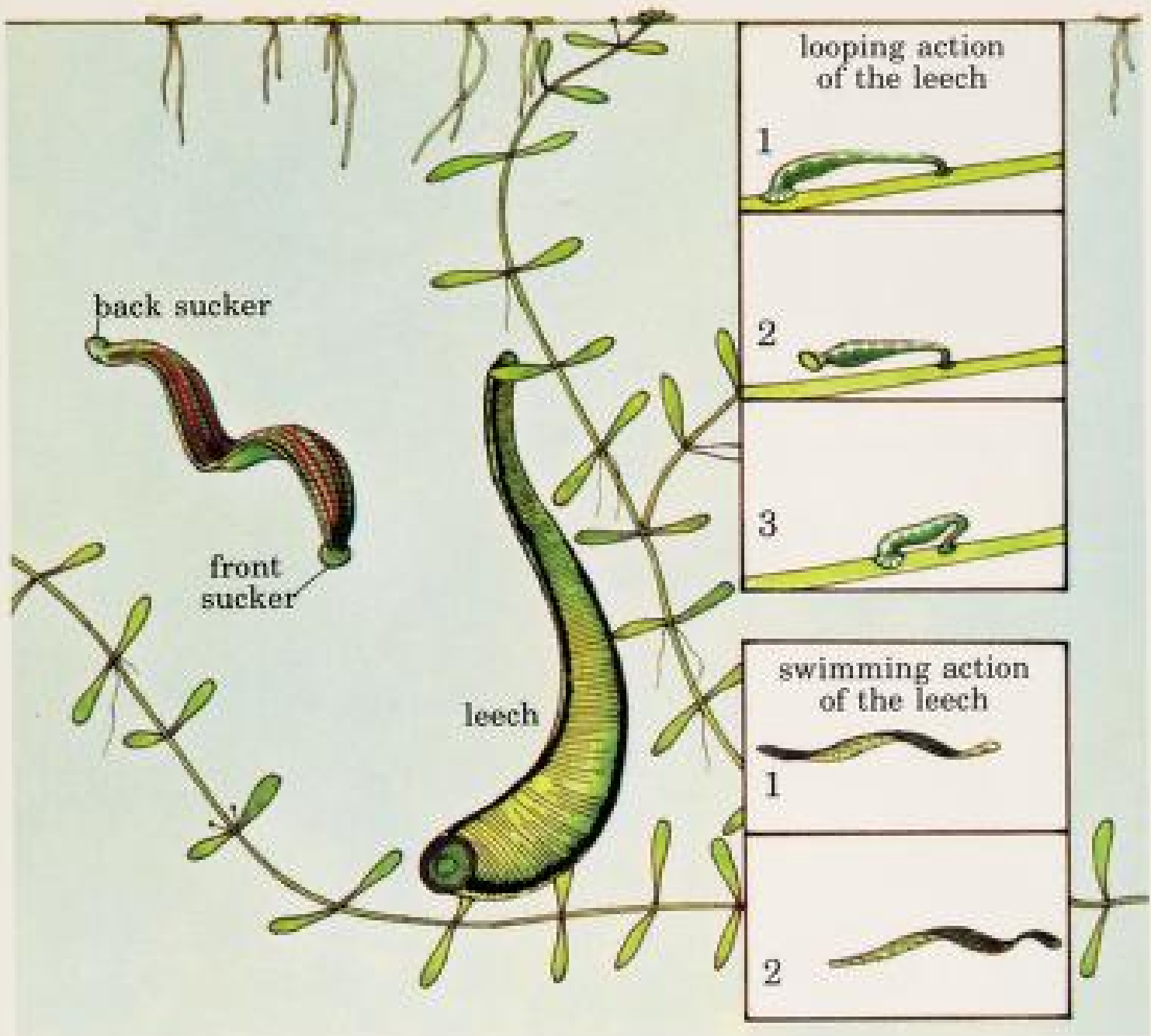
case of
leaves and bark



case of
sand grains and stick

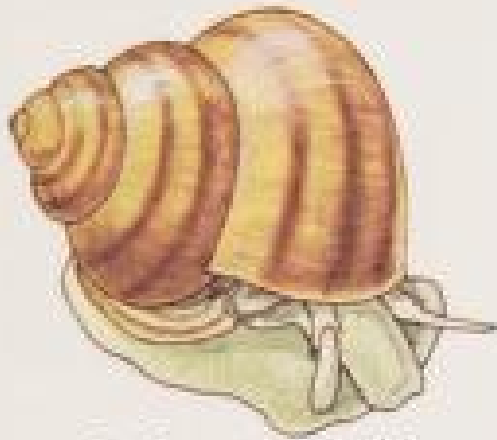


How do caddis flies grow in a pond?
Caddis flies lay eggs on shore. The larva returns to the water. Then it forms a case around itself. The adult hatches from the case.



What are leeches like?

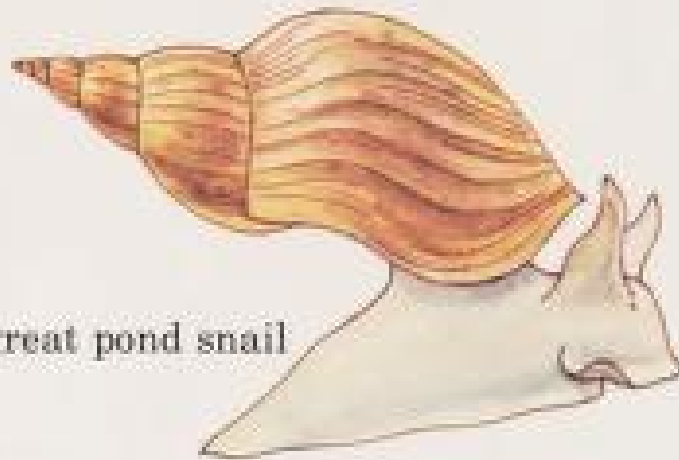
Leeches look like flatworms. They have suckers at each end. Suckers hold onto plants and stones. Leeches are good swimmers.



freshwater winkle



great ramshorn



great pond snail



nerite



Jenkin's spire snail

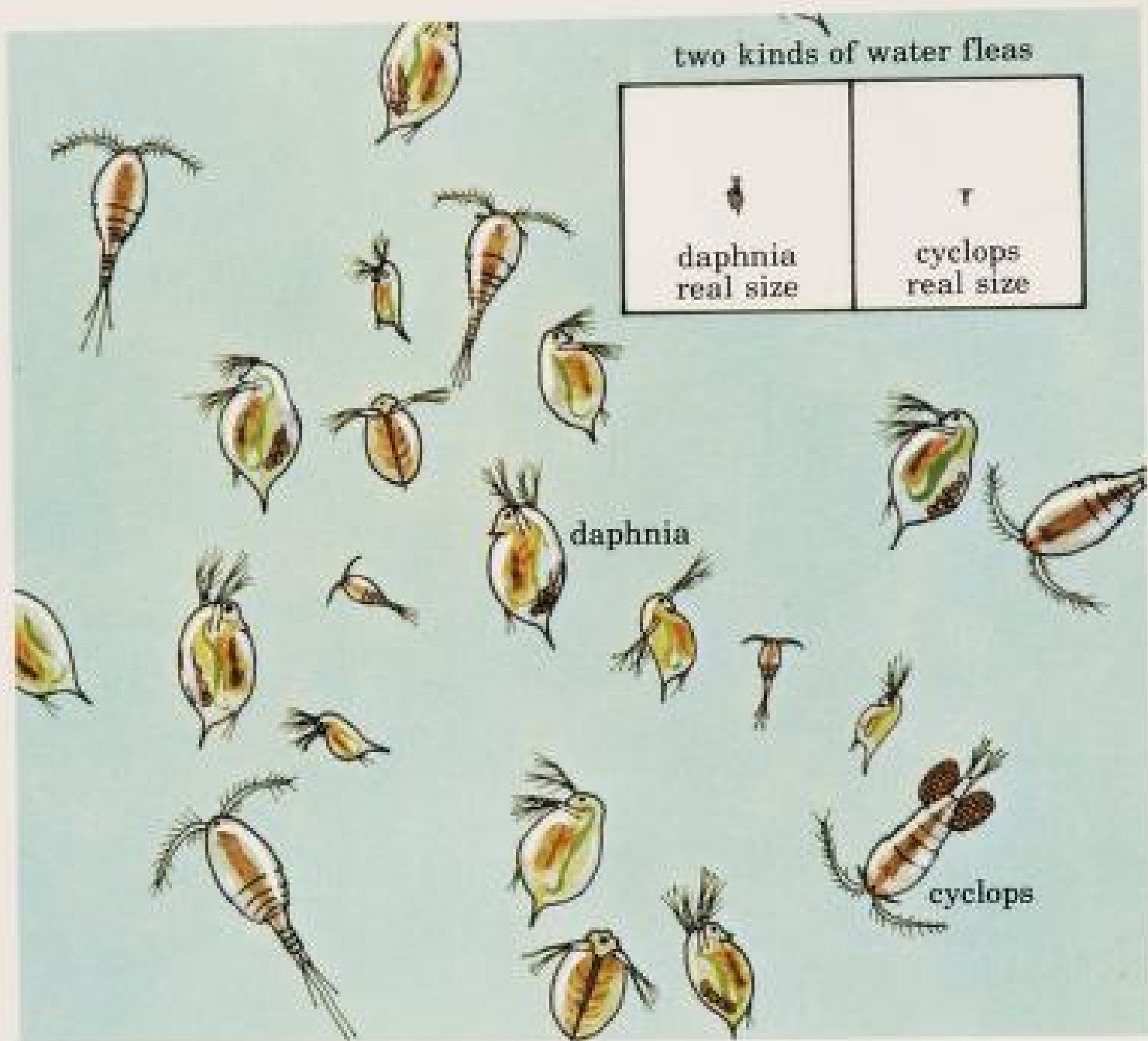
Why do snails have shells?

Shells are the houses of snails. Snails carry their shells with them. Snails have many sizes and shapes.



What can you learn from watching snails with a magnifying glass?

Snails hatch from eggs. They can hold on to the side of a glass jar. Snails are scavengers.



What other animals can you see with a magnifying glass?

Water fleas are very small. There are lots of water fleas in a pond. Other animals eat them for food.



How can you take care of pond animals?
You can keep some pond animals and plants for only a short time. You have to be very careful so that they will live.



leeches

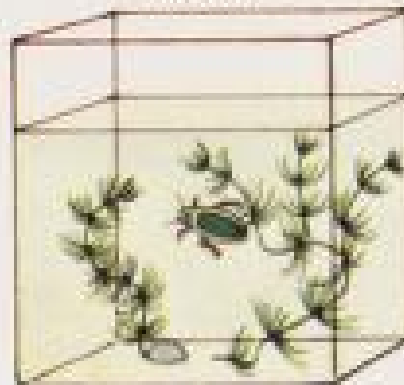


stickleback

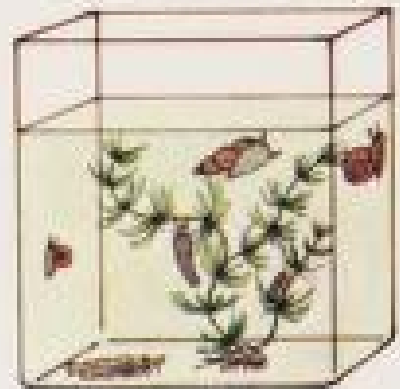
water-boatman



great diving
beetle



snails, caddis larvae,
water lice



What is the best way to keep animals and plants?

Most animals should be by themselves. Snails, caddis larvae, and water lice will not eat each other. Sticklebacks eat living water fleas.



What can you do with the pond animals and plants?

You can watch them and draw pictures. You can make a book about them. After a few days, return the animals to the pond.

Look at Pond Life Again

Animals and plants of a pond live together in a community.

Pond birds build nests on shore or on the water.

Pond fish eat plants and animals that grow in the pond.

Frogs, toads, and newts lay eggs.

Tadpoles hatch from frog eggs.

Tadpoles grow tails, then legs, and finally turn into frogs.

Some insects live only on the surface of the pond water.

Scavengers eat bits of food left by other animals.

Snail shells are homes for the snails.

A magnifying glass will help you to discover more about pond life.

Look at These Questions About Pond Life

1. Do some pond plants have roots that float?
2. What do pond fish eat?
3. What hatches from frog eggs?
4. How long do mayflies live?
5. How do diving beetles carry air underwater?
6. Where do leeches have suckers?
7. How are snails born?
8. What do sticklebacks eat?
9. How long should you have pond animals away from the pond?
10. Are snails scavengers?

ANSWERS

1. Yes.
2. Plants and insects.
3. Tadpoles.
4. A few hours.
5. Under their wing cases.
6. At each end of their bodies.
7. They hatch from eggs.
8. Living water fleas.
9. A very short time.
10. Yes.

Words in POND LIFE

water
page 5



case
page 22



roots
page 6



sucker
page 23



surface
page 13



magnifying
glass
page 25



bottom
page 20



container
page 27





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